

280,000 Contraband Cigarettes Seized by the Central St. Lawrence Valley Regional Task Force

[News Release](#)

South Glengarry, Ontario - On January 8th, 2008, at 4:46 p.m., intelligence officers from the Canada Border Services Agency working with officers from the Central St. Lawrence Valley RCMP Detachment- Cornwall Office and officers from the Ontario Provincial Police stopped a 1988 Chevrolet pick-up truck on Summerstown Road at Glen Road in South Glengarry, Ontario. As the officers approached the driver they could smell a strong odour of marihuana from the driver's side and they also observed brown cardboard boxes and smelled tobacco from the cargo area of the truck. The RCMP officers searched the truck and seized a total of 1,400 re-sealable bags of contraband cigarettes that were manufactured in the United States and smuggled into Canada. This represents 280,000 contraband cigarettes worth \$30,800 that were not properly packaged or stamped and were destined to be sold illegally.

The driver and registered owner of the truck, a 28 year old male resident of Myers Road in St. Andrews West, Ontario was arrested and will be charged by the RCMP under Section 32(1) of the *Excise Act 2001* for possession of a tobacco product not properly stamped according to the *Excise Act 2001*. He was released to appear at the Alexandria court on February 6th, 2008. The truck, which is valued at \$500, was also seized by the RCMP.

Through intelligence-led policing and monitoring, the RCMP is noticing that the geographical span of distribution networks for illegal tobacco products is expanding in Canada. Generally, illicit tobacco products on the black market do not bear proper markings (stamping). Therefore, consumers should be aware that being in possession of tobacco products that do not have proper markings (stamping) are in violation of the *Excise Act 2001* and are subject to civil and/or criminal prosecution.

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